



Leilani Patao from
Los Angeles, CA

Song: "Mauna Kea"

Mentor: Ty DeFoe

Musical Director: Daniel Lincoln



Leilani Patao is a junior at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) where she is in the vocals department and participates in musical theatre and in opera productions. Her most notable role at LACHSA was Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Prior to attending LACHSA, Leilani spent seven years with the Jaxx Theatricals Conservatory where her favorite role was Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*. Now, Leilani writes her own music and creates her own music videos, her most recent being "Garden Girl," produced by Juliana Candler. Leilani is activities director with Love Through Music, a non-profit charity helping children in Nepal, where she volunteers her music and time to raise money for them. In her spare time, Leilani dances hula, plays the ukulele, and walks her dog, Daisy.

Song Description: Ailani has lived in Hilo, Hawai'i her entire life. In the summer of 2019, the Mauna Kea protests begin against the building of a 30-story telescope on sacred Hawaiian land on the mountain of Mauna Kea. At the same time, Ailani moves to New York to study literature at college. But she is deeply disillusioned when she learns that her college isn't interested in the kinds of stories she has to tell about her Hawaiian people. Once she realizes that she doesn't have to compromise her writing for the sake of a professor, she leaves school and returns to Hawaii. Now, it is December 2019 and Ailani sits down to

write the story she has wanted to the whole time. Ailani sings about her people, their spirit, and their mountain.

Patao's mentor Ty Defoe (Giizhig), Oneida and Ojibwe Nations, is a writer and Grammy Award winner. Awards: a Robert Rauschenberg Artist in Residence, Jonathan Larson Award. Works created and authored: *River of Stone*, *Red Pine*, *The Way They Lived*, *Ajijaak on Turtle Island*, *Hear Me Say My Name*, *The Lesson* (w/ Doran and Amon). Ty is an artEquity facilitator, co-founder of Indigenous Direction (with Larissa FastHorse), member of All My Relations Collective-- DTWG at the Public Theater, GIZHIBAA GIIZHIG | Revolving Sky at Under the Radar's Incoming!). Degrees from CalArts, Goddard College, and New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Movement Direction: *Mother Road*, Dir. Bill Rauch (OSF), Manahatta, Dir. Laurie Woolery (OSF + Yale Rep), and choreographer for Tracy Letts' *The Minutes* (Broadway). Appeared on the Netflix show *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, and Broadway debut in Young Jean Lee's *Straight White Men*, director Anna Shapiro. Lives in NYC + loves the color clear.

Patao's musical director Daniel Lincoln is a New York City-based conductor/pianist who has played for Broadway productions such as *Wicked*, *On Your Feet!*, *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, and *The Cher Show*, and Broadway casting agencies such as Binder Casting, Tara Rubin CSA, and Telsey + Co. Daniel has taught at New York University Tisch School of the Arts and New York Film Academy's Professional Conservatory of Musical Theatre. As composer/lyricist: Daniel's upcoming musical comedies *Making Melrose* and *The Remarkable Mister Holmes* will premiere in the 2020/2021 theater season. He has also written music and lyrics for multiple movie musical shorts, including the award-winning *Plus One*. Proud AFM and Dramatist Guild Member; ASCAP songwriter.